

THE BIRDS OF GOA¹ (Part II)

HEINZ LAINER²

(continued from JBNHS 96(2))

167. (546) **Alexandrine Parakeet**

Psittacula eupatria (Linn.)

Uncommon resident (?) in very small numbers. Singles and groups of up to 5 birds occasionally seen at coastal villages of North Goa. Possibly, escaped cage-birds.

168. (550) **Rose-ringed Parakeet**

P. krameri (Scopoli)

A common breeding resident in large numbers, from seaside coconut groves to the base of the Ghats.

169. (558) **Blossom-headed Parakeet**

P. cyanocephala (Linn.)

A common resident, in large numbers, of the coastal belt, wooded valleys in the midland region and of the base and lower slopes of the Western Ghats. Breeding was noted in February and December.

170. (564) **Blue-winged Parakeet**

P. columboides (Vigors)

Fairly common resident, in moderate to considerable numbers, of the lower slopes of the Sahyadris and some of their outlying hillocks. Only small numbers remain during the monsoon.

171. (566) **Indian Lorikeet**

Loriculus vernalis (Sparrman)

Common resident and local migrant in considerable to large numbers. More common in the coastal belt at the tail-end of the monsoon, August to October, and in the Ghats during the winter (November to March); uncommon in both zones in the monsoon.

172. (571) **Pied Crested Cuckoo**

Clamator jacobinus (Boddaert)

A not uncommon but capricious visitor, in small numbers, to the coastal lowlands and

plateaus of the midlands up to the base of the Western Ghats, from early June to end November.

173. (573) **Common Hawk-Cuckoo**

Cuculus varius Vahl

Uncommon summer visitor in small numbers. Essentially a bird of the plateaus, their scarps and the base and foothills of the Western Ghats. Usually present from mid-March to early November.

174. (576) **Indian Cuckoo**

C. micropterus Gould

Rare visitor. Recorded by Grubh and Ali (1975) at Cotigao WS, in November-December, and myself at the base of the Sahyadris, from March to May.

175. (578) **Cuckoo *C. canorus* Linn.**

Up to 1996, I had only three records, all from slightly hilly parts of the coastal belt. Curiously, I came across the cuckoo on October 9, 10 and 11, with two years intervening between each date. This strongly suggests a short and extremely punctual passage migration. However, 1996 seems to have been an 'invasion year': suddenly, from early October till the first days of November, dozens of these cuckoos dotted electric lines all over Goa, from just behind the seashore to the foot of the Western Ghats.

176. (582) **Indian Banded Bay Cuckoo**

C. sonneratii (Latham)

Rare resident in very small numbers. Occurs on scarps of midland plateaus and at the base of the Ghats. Breeding, with the common iora as host, was recorded in October.

177. (584) **Indian Plaintive Cuckoo**

C. passerinus (Vahl)

A fairly common summer visitor, in small numbers, to all three zones. Starts to arrive in early May and fades away towards mid-November with an occasional stray being recorded in January, March to April.

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178. (588) **Drongo Cuckoo**

***Surniculus lugubris* (Horsfield)**

An uncommon summer (monsoon) visitor in small numbers, preferring well-wooded scarps of midland plateaus and the base and outlying hills of the Ghats, from late May to early October.

179. (590) **Koel**

***Eudynamys scolopacea* (Linn.)**

Common resident, in large numbers, from the coast to Ghats. Fledglings were recorded from November to May.

180. (595) **Small Green-billed Malkoha**

***Rhopodytes viridirostris* (Jerdon)**

Uncommon dry season visitor in small numbers. This cuckoo inhabits cashew-covered plateaus, midland as well as coastal, and their scarps. Though it seems to avoid the Western Ghats strip, I have come across a sizeable population on Vagheri (ca 760 m), an outlying hill in Sattari taluka, where it occurs even on the summit. Not yet recorded from mid-June to early September.

181. (600) **Coucal**

***Centropus sinensis* (Stephens)**

Common, ubiquitous (wherever cover is found) and numerous resident from the coast to the Ghats. Fledglings were seen in October.

182. (605) **Lesser Coucal**

***C. toulou* (P.L.S. Muller)**

Davidson (1898) felt 'certain I have also seen it at Anshi. Mr. Aitken has also seen it at Castle Rock still further north'. Both locations are on the crest of the Sahyadris, just a few km from the Goa border. I have only one unambiguous sight record of a single bird on the fringes of a cashew plantation surrounded by evergreen and moist deciduous forest in the BMWS, hardly 7 km from Castle Rock.

183. (606) **Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (Scopoli)**

Breeding resident in small numbers. The few records I know of are all from Panaji, Goa's capital, and surrounding villages.

184. (623) **Collared Scops Owl**

***Otus baccamoena* Pennant**

A not uncommon resident, in small

numbers, of the coastal belt; rare at the base and slopes (up to 250 m) of the Ghats.

185. (628) **Forest Eagle Owl**

***Bubo nipalensis* Hodgson**

I have seen this owl only thrice, in March 1985 and 1989, and in May 1996, each time within a radius of half a km of the Devil's Canyon, in the BMWS.

186. (630) **Dusky Horned Owl**

***B. coromandus* (Latham)**

There are two records, dated June 1986 and January 1996, from densely forested gullies on the scarp of plateaus in close proximity to the coast, at Tirakol (Pernem) and Arpora (Bardez).

187. (631) **Brown Fish Owl**

***B. ceylonensis* (Gmelin)**

Uncommon resident, in small numbers, of remnant semi-evergreen forest on the slope of plateaus facing the coastal strip (from where this owl forays into estuaries and disused saltpans). It also inhabits well-watered forests on the lower slopes of the Ghats. One bird was shot by an irate fisherman, less than 200 m from the sea, at Tirakol (Pernem).

188. (636) **Jungle Owlet**

***Glaucidium radiatum* (Tickell)**

A common, moderately numerous resident of the coastal belt and midlands up to the base of the Western Ghats. Fledglings were seen in May and July.

189. (642) **Brown Hawk Owl**

***Ninox scutulata* (Raffles)**

I have three dry season records, spread over 5 years, from outlying hillocks of the Sahyadri foothills.

190. (652) **Spotted Owlet**

***Athene brama* (Temminck)**

A common and numerous resident throughout Goa; seems to favour the coastal belt. Fledglings were seen in March.

191. (659) **Brown Wood Owl**

***Strix leptogrammica* Temminck**

A pair bred and successfully reared one young between February and June 1986, in a patch of remnant semi-evergreen forest on a

plateau scarp close to the coast, at Arpora (Bardez). Not recorded before or since.

192. (669) **Great Eared Nightjar**
Eurostopus macrotis (Vigors)

Grubh and Ali (1975) 'regularly heard (them) at dusk' around Valpoi (Sattari) in November-December 1972. I heard this nightjar at Pali, near Valpoi, in February 1985.

193. (671) **Indian Jungle Nightjar**
Caprimulgus indicus Latham

Common, moderately numerous resident (or dry season visitor, there are no records between mid-May and mid-September) of plateaus near the coast to the base of the Ghats.

194. (675) **Long-tailed Nightjar**
C. macrurus Horsfield

Grubh and Ali (1975) collected a specimen in or around the Cotigao WS, in November-December 1972. I remember having heard one in the late seventies from a then undisturbed valley of remnant semi-evergreen woods at Bambolim (Tiswadi), in the plateau region.

195. (682) **Franklin's Nightjar**
C. affinis Horsfield

A specimen was collected in Cotigao WS by Saha and Dasgupta (1992), in Feb. 1978. Frost sighted one on the wooded slope of a plateau at Arpora (Bardez), close to the coast, in Feb. 1997.

196. (685) **Indian Edible-nest Swiftlet**
Collocalia unicolor (Jerdon)

A common, year-round visitor in large though wildly fluctuating numbers. May be encountered anywhere in Goa, but most frequently in a ca. 5 km deep strip along the coast. Their two-directional flight pattern (southward at dawn and northward at dusk) strongly suggests that they originate from the vast breeding colony on Burnt Island off Malwan (Sindhudurg dist., Maharashtra), ca. 30 km north of Goa. Flock size peaks in December-January with up to 1500 birds, while between May and September singles and small groups prevail. Numbers have declined sharply since 1989, when commercial exploitation of the Burnt Island colony recommenced.

This swiftlet used to breed in caves which have now collapsed, on Anjediva, a small island to the southwest off Karwar (North Kanara) which is Goan territory. There might still be a small breeding population in the Goan Western Ghats.

197. (691) **Large Brown-throated Spinetail**
Swift Chaetura gigantea (Temminck)

In March 1985, I saw 5 birds cruising over an outlying hillock of the Sahyadris, at Kalay (Sanguem). Visiting British birdwatchers claim to have sighted up to 25 birds at Chandranath hill (Quepem) and the Dudhsagar waterfalls in the BMWS, in Nov. 1994 (Willoughby 1996).

198. (692) **White-rumped Spinetail**
C. sylvatica (Tickell)

Uncommon visitor or resident, in small numbers, of the BMWS (up to 24 birds) and Cotigao WS (up to 8). Unrecorded from July to November.

199. (693) **Alpine Swift**
Apus melba (Linn.)

Straggler. There are 5 winter records spanning 7 years, of rabbles of up to 40 birds from two localities where midland plateaus border on the coastal belt.

200. (699) **Large White-rumped Swift**
A. pacificus (Latham)

Davidson (1898) found 'This is the common Kanara swift ... I have seen it in considerable numbers on the ridge of the Ghats close to the Dudh Sagar station of the Portuguese railway at all seasons ...'

At the end of Oct. 1996 and again a week later, a group of at least 4 birds put in several fleeting appearances at the Carambolim (Tiswadi) lake and the nearby Cumbarjua canal.

201. (703) **House Swift** *A. affinis* (J.E. Gray)

A common, considerably numerous resident from the coast to the crest of the Ghats, this swift breeds throughout the year in towns, under bridges and in the numerous tunnels piercing the steep escarpments along the Braganza Ghat section of the former Western India Portuguese-guaranteed Railway.

202. (707) **Palm Swift*****Cypsiurus parvus* (Lichtenstein)**

Not uncommon, but very local resident, in moderate numbers. Found mainly in the coastal belt wherever a sprinkling of borassus palm occurs, often in municipal gardens. Breeds in September.

203. (709) **Crested Tree Swift*****Hemiprocne longipennis* (Rafinesque)**

A rather uncommon, considerably numerous resident of the base of the Western Ghats and plateau scarps in the midlands. Roving singles and small groups may appear anywhere between the seashore and the crest of the Sahyadris. Breeding was recorded in April.

204. (712) **Malabar Trogon*****Harpactes fasciatus* (Pennant)**

Uncommon resident, in considerable numbers, of the Western Ghats. Evenly distributed from the moist deciduous forests at the base through the wet evergreen jungle slopes to the crest.

205. (719) **Lesser Pied Kingfisher*****Ceryle rudis* (Linn.)**

Not uncommon, moderately numerous resident of various water-bodies in the coastal belt and river basins; rare along the coast and marshes at the base of the Ghats.

206. (722) **Common Kingfisher*****Alcedo atthis* (Linn.)**

A common, considerably numerous resident, found throughout the area from rocky seashore to the crest of the Sahyadris. Breeds in the coastal belt between May and July, in the Ghats probably in October.

207. (725) **Blue-eared Kingfisher*****A. meninting* Horsfield**

Small numbers of this rather scarce resident occur on not too fast flowing stretches of rivers and streams in the foothills and on the crest of the Sahyadris.

208. (727) **Three-toed Kingfisher*****Ceyx erithacus* (Linn.)**

Status uncertain; possibly a very rare monsoon visitor to the base and lower slopes of

the Western Ghats. Rane (1982) recorded it between April and June 1982 at Collem and Mollem (Sanguem). There are two July records, in 1988 and 1996, from the same area.

209. (730) **Stork-billed Kingfisher*****Pelargopsis capensis* (Linn.)**

Not uncommon, moderately numerous resident, from rocky seashore, creeks and salt pans to rivers in the Ghats foothills up to 150 m.

210. (735) **White-breasted Kingfisher*****Halcyon smyrnensis* (Linn.)**

A common, ubiquitous resident in considerable to large numbers. Occurs from the seashore to the Ghats foothills. Breeding was noted in April and in the monsoon.

211. (739) **Black-capped Kingfisher*****H. pileata* (Boddaert)**

Small numbers of this rather uncommon resident (?) or dry season visitor are found along the seashore, mangrove-lined creeks, inland estuaries and on the upper reaches of the rivers where they penetrate the Western Ghats (several records from the bottom and top of the Dudhsagar waterfalls, at ca. 170 and 520 m). It is absent from June to September.

212. (740) **White-collared Kingfisher*****H. chloris* (Boddaert)**

Status uncertain. Visiting British bird-watchers on crocodile-watching trips to the Cumbarjua canal, a natural, mangrove-fringed creek linking the inland estuaries of the Zuari and Mandovi rivers, reported sightings of this kingfisher from 1993 onwards. Frost, Manville and I confirmed these reports in November 1996. Another sighting of two birds dates from April 1997.

213. (744) **Chestnut-headed bee-eater*****Merops leschenaulti* (Vieillot)**

Not uncommon, considerably numerous resident of the base and lower slopes of the Western Ghats and of the eastern rim of the midland plateau. The numbers of this bird are in a steep and steady decline since the mid-eighties, especially at BMWS, where till 1985

up to 200 individuals could be found at a night-roost just outside Collem village (Sanguem).

214. (748) **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**
M. philippinus Linn.

Fairly common, dry season visitor in large numbers that wildly fluctuate annually. Patchily distributed from river mouths to clearings in the forests of the lower Ghats, from early September to the first days of May.

215. (750) **Green Bee-eater**
M. orientalis Latham

A very common, very numerous dry season visitor to the entire state, from beaches to the crest of the Sahyadris. Numbers start dwindling in March, augmented shortly by passage migrants in May. Only a few remain over the heavy monsoon in June to August. Return migration in early September. Every dry spell in the monsoon brings an influx of these birds, indicating that they had not migrated farther than the Deccan plateau, just across the ridge of the Sahyadris.

216. (753) **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**
Nyctiornis athertoni (Jardine & Selby)

Rare resident in very small numbers. There are 7 records, covering all seasons, from the lower reaches (up to 200 m) and outlying hills of the Western Ghats.

217. (754) **European Roller**
Coracias garrulus Linn.

A record by Davidson (1898) from Majali (N. Kanara), just a few km south of Goa, seems to be the southernmost of this species in India. Grubh and Ali (1975) procured a specimen from the almost adjoining Cotigao WS, in November-December 1972. A bird killed in a collision with an aircraft, 30 nautical miles off Goa, in October 1987, was reported by Satheesan (1988).

October-November 1996 saw a veritable invasion of this species into Goa: up to 4 birds were recorded from an alluvial plain at Divar (Tiswadi) Island in the inland estuary of the Mandovi, and from a grassland between Mollem and Collem (Sanguem), at the base of the Ghats.

218. (759) **Indian Roller**
C. benghalensis (Linn.)

Common, considerably numerous winter visitor from just behind the seashore to the foot of the Sahyadris, from mid-October to early April. Numbers are declining steadily.

219. (763) **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* Linn.

Moderate to considerable numbers of this not uncommon winter visitor are spread over the whole area, from offshore islands (during migration) to the base of the Ghats, between mid-October and late April.

220. (768) **Malabar Grey Hornbill**
Tockus griseus (Latham)

A fairly common, considerably numerous resident of the Sahyadris, from the outlying hillocks to the crest; apparently never strays from this rather restricted habitat.

221. (775) **Malabar Pied Hornbill**
Anthracoceros coronatus (Boddaert)

Moderate numbers of this not uncommon resident occur mainly in the Western Ghats and the eastern part of the midlands. Roving birds occasionally appear even at the coast.

222. (776) **Great Pied Hornbill**
Buceros bicornis Linn.

Status uncertain; possibly a very rare resident. The fact that Grubh and Ali (1975) noted this bird at the BMWS and saw three specimens at the Cotigao WS within two weeks in late 1972, while I encountered it just four times in 1980-1997 shows how endangered this species has become. Three of my sightings are from the BMWS, one (of 6 birds) is from the coastal village of Tirakol (Pernem).

223. (782) **Large Green Barbet**
Megalaima zeylanica (Gmelin)

Uncommon resident in small to moderate numbers. Sporadically found all over the area, but mainly at the base of the Western Ghats.

224. (785) **Small Green Barbet**
M. viridis (Boddaert)

Common resident in large numbers. Evenly distributed over the entire study area, from seaside palm groves to the dense wet

evergreen forests on the upper slopes and crest of the Sahyadris. Breeding in February.

225. (790) **Crimson-throated Barbet**
M. rubricapilla (Gmelin)

Considerable numbers of this fairly common resident occur along the eastern rim of the midland region and the base and lower slopes of the Western Ghats.

226. (792) **Crimson-breasted Barbet**
M. haemacephala (P.L.S. Muller)

A common, numerous resident from the coast to the forests on the lower slopes of the Sahyadris up to ca. 150 m. Breeding in January.

227. (796) **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* Linn.

Stray. Recorded in November 1986 by myself and in March 1993 by Willoughby (1996), both from the same area in the coastal belt of North Goa.

228. (798) **Speckled Piculet**
Picumnus innominatus Burton

Stray (?). A single bird was observed in bamboo clusters at the foot of the Anmod Ghat (BMWS), in November 1996, by me and Frost.

229. (804) **Rufous Woodpecker**
Micropternus brachyurus (Vieillot)

Fairly common, considerably numerous resident of the coastal belt and the midland region, up to the base of the Ghats.

230. (816) **Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker**
Picus chlorolophus Vieillot

A scarce resident, in very small numbers, of the Sahyadris, from the base to the ridge.

231. (819) **Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker** *Dinopium benghalense* (Linn.)

This common, considerably numerous resident is distributed through all three zones, from palm groves at the shore to the upper reaches of the Ghats. Breeding in April and December.

232. (825) **Indian Golden-backed Three-toed Woodpecker** *D. javanense* (Ljungh)

Not uncommon, moderately numerous resident of moist deciduous and wet evergreen forest of the Western Ghats, from the foothills to the crest.

233. (830) **Indian Great Black Woodpecker**
Dryocopus javensis (Horsfield)

Very small numbers of this scarce resident are found in moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forest at the base of the Sahyadris.

234. (847) **Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker**
Picoides mahrattensis (Latham)

Uncommon resident, in small numbers, of the foothills and lower slopes of the Western Ghats. Occasional visitor to remnant patches of semi-evergreen woods near the sea.

235. (851) **Pigmy Woodpecker**
P. nanus (Vigors)

Not uncommon resident, in moderate numbers. Restricted to the moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forests of the Sahyadris foothills up to ca. 150 m.

236. (856) **Heart-spotted Woodpecker**
Hemicircus canente (Lesson)

Moderate numbers of this fairly common resident occur in the entire Western Ghats of Goa. Breeding in January.

237. (861) **Larger Golden-backed Woodpecker**
Chrysocolaptes lucidus (Scopoli)

Fairly common, considerably numerous resident of the Western Ghats base and foothills up to ca. 250 m).

238. (867) **Indian Pitta**
Pitta brachyura (Linn.)

A fairly common, considerably numerous dry season and breeding visitor. Found from the hinterland of the seashore to the lower slopes of the Ghats, from end April to early September. There is an irregular, enigmatic appearance of a few passage migrants between early January and mid-March.

239. (878) **Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark**
Eremopterix grisea (Scopoli)

A fairly common, considerably numerous, dry season visitor to coastal and riverine lowlands and lateritic plateaus not far from the coast. Absent from the first days of June to late September.

240. (882) **Rufous-tailed Finch-Lark**
E. phoenicurus (Franklin)

Uncommon dry season visitor, possibly

resident, in small numbers, at a few places in the Mandovi river basin. Not recorded in the rains.

241. (886) **Short-toed Lark**
Calandrella cinerea (Gmelin)

A locally common, winter visitor in very large numbers, typically on alluvial lowlands of the coastal belt and river basins, lateritic plateaus in proximity to the sea and grasslands at the foot of the Sahyadris. This migrant starts arriving in late September and disappears by early April.

242. (901) **Malabar Crested Lark**
Galerida malabarica (Scopoli)

A common, monsoon-shirking resident, in large numbers, of the coastal belt and midland region; uncommon winter visitor in small numbers to the base of the Western Ghats. Monsoon evasion begins in April, by late May the last birds have left; return movement peaks in end-August. Breeding was noted in October-November on a coastal plateau.

243. (902) **Sykes's Crested Lark**
G. deva (Sykes)

Stray. There were a number of sightings over a 10-day period in early Dec. 1996, on wasteland and pastures near tidal creeks in coastal N. Goa, by Frost, Manville and myself.

244. (907) **Eastern Skylark**
Alauda gulgula Franklin

A fairly common resident in considerable numbers. Prefers lateritic plateaus in close proximity to the sea and alluvial land in the river basins. There is much seasonal shifting.

245. (910) **Collared Sand Martin**
Riparia riparia (Linn.)

Stray. One or two birds were seen hawking over a barren laterite plateau of the coastal belt, near a freshwater reservoir, at the end of September 1997.

246. (913) **Crag Martin**
Hirundo rupestris Scopoli

Small numbers of this scarce winter visitor (mid-November to March) occasionally seen at cliffs on the upper slopes of the Sahyadris.

247. (914) **Dusky Crag Martin**
H. unicolor Sykes

A not uncommon, moderately numerous resident of the Western Ghats and, to a lesser degree, the eastern midlands. Hundreds of migrants appear in some years during November. Rane (1982) recorded this martin in June at Panaji, Goa, at the mouth of the Mandovi. Breeding was recorded in February and August-September

248. (916) **Swallow** *H. rustica* Linn.

Not uncommon, moderately numerous winter visitor to the coastal belt and river basins, between mid-September and late March.

249. (919) **House Swallow**
H. tahitica Gmelin

Vagrant. Frost and Manville (*pers. comm.*) observed a single bird perched along with *H. daurica* on an electric line over pastureland at the coastal village of Candolim (Bardez), on two consecutive days in late March 1997.

250. (921) **Wire-tailed Swallow**
H. smithii Leach

This common, moderately numerous resident is found all over the territory, from offshore islands to rivers in the foothills of the Ghats. Breeding was recorded in February-March in the Ghats and during August in the coastal belt.

251. (922) **Indian Cliff Swallow**
H. fluvicola Blyth

An uncommon, somewhat irregular winter visitor, in very moderate numbers, to the coastal belt. Most records fall between late October and mid-March.

252. (923) **Red-rumped Swallow**
H. daurica Linn.

An uncommon resident in small numbers, but very common winter visitor in very large numbers. Distributed over the entire study area. The winter visitors disappear by mid-April, leaving a tiny resident population in the coastal region, where nest-building was noticed in late April. Large flocks of the migratory population reappear in mid-October.

253. (930) **House Martin**

Delichon urbica (Linn.)

Straggler. Between late Dec. 1995 and mid-Feb. 1996, I saw up to 4 birds on three occasions, at coastal headlands and the base of the Ghats.

254. (946) **Rufous-backed Shrike**

Lanius schach Linn.

A common, considerably numerous, dry season visitor to all zones, from just behind the seashore to the lower slopes of the Sahyadris. It moves out by end-April (most probably up to the Deccan, where it is common during its absence from Goa) and returns in mid-September when the rains are almost over.

255. (949) **Brown Shrike** *L. cristatus* Linn.

Small numbers of this rather scarce winter visitor are found between mid-October and early February in an amazing variety of habitats, from stands of beach-side casuarinas over gardens, pasture land, fallow rice-paddies and mangroves, along creeks, to dense evergreen forest on the scarp of the Ghats.

256. (952) **Golden Oriole**

Oriolus oriolus (Linn.)

A common dry season visitor in large and passage migrant in very large numbers. Spread all over, from just behind the sea-shore to the lower reaches of the Sahyadris, between early or mid-September and mid-May.

257. (954) **Black-naped Oriole**

O. chinensis Linn.

Stray. A pair was sighted in November 1985 in BMWS and a single female twice in December 1996 in the Cotigao WS.

258. (958) **Black-headed Oriole**

O. xanthornus (Linn.)

This common, numerous resident inhabits plateau-scarps (even close to the sea) and the belt of moist deciduous forests at the foot of the Ghats, where it outnumbers all other bird species in May. Breeds in April, possibly August-September.

259. (963) **Black Drongo**

Dicrurus adsimilis (Bechstein)

A common, numerous resident and local migrant. Occurs in all zones, from rice-paddies

behind the seashore to village outskirts at the foot of the Ghats. The greater part of the population moves out (presumably up to the Deccan) in late May and returns towards end July.

260. (965) **Grey Drongo**

D. leucophaeus Vieillot

Common winter visitor in large numbers, from seaside mango orchards to the ridge of the Sahyadris. This most punctual of all winter visitors arrives in the first week of October and has left by early April.

261. (967) **White-bellied Drongo**

D. caerulescens (Linn.)

A not uncommon, moderately numerous resident of the midland region and the base and lower slopes of the Ghats. Breeding in April.

262. (971) **Bronzed Drongo**

D. aeneus Vieillot

Common resident, in considerable numbers, of the entire Western Ghats and in moderate numbers of many remnant pockets of semi-evergreen forest on plateau scarps, even close to the sea. Breeds in April-May.

263. (973) **Hair-crested Drongo**

D. hottentotus (Linn.)

Scarce winter visitor in very small numbers. There are three records each from the Cotigao WS and BMWS and one from Valpoi (Sattari), all in November to January.

264. (977) **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**

D. paradiseus (Linn.)

A common, considerably numerous resident of the Western Ghats and their outlying hills and better-wooded valleys of the midland region; also occasional visitor to patches of evergreen woods on the west facing scarps of plateaus near the coast. Breeds April to June.

For a discussion of the validity of a specimen of the Ceylon subspecies *D. p. lophorinus* (Vieillot), collected in Goa, see Ripley (1981). More recently, Saha and Dasgupta (1992) procured a specimen of this race from Poinguinim (Canacona) and describe it as 'not common in sal and cashew plantations'.

265. (982) **Ashy Swallow-Shrike**

Artamus fuscus Vieillot

Not uncommon but capricious resident in moderate numbers, monsoon visitor in considerable numbers. Found in all zones. Absent from large tracts during the dry season. Most common at the foot of the Sahyadris, where loose flocks of more than 80 are not uncommon at villages like Mollem and Collem (Sanguem).

266. (987) **Grey-headed Myna**

Sturnus malabaricus (Gmelin)

Fairly common, dry season visitor in varying, often large numbers, from the sea-shore (where they prefer night roosts in coconut palms) to the secondary forests of the lower reaches of the Ghats. The coastal belt is frequented almost exclusively by the nominate race, with a few specimens of *S. m. blythii* (Jerdon) showing up during autumn migration, Aug. to Oct. Further inland and along the Ghats, subsp. *blythii* is predominant, with pure flocks of *S. m. malabaricus* (Gmelin) appearing only in May. Hybrids of the two races are common in all zones.

267. (994) **Black-headed Myna**

S. pagodarum (Gmelin)

Rather scarce and irregular winter visitor, in very small numbers, to coastal villages of N. Goa, between early October and March.

268. (996) **Rosy Pastor** *S. roseus* (Linn.)

Not uncommon winter visitor in annually fluctuating numbers, from a few smallish groups in some years to flocks up to 2000 in others. Found on coastal lowlands and plateaus, rarely at the base of the Ghats, from end-October (unusual in mid-September) to mid-March.

269. (1006) **Common Myna**

Acridotheres tristis (Linn.)

The only moderately numerous resident population is augmented in mid-May by local migrants; every spell of heavy rainfall in June-July brings a new influx till it is almost as common and numerous as *A. fuscus*, in July-August. These summer visitors disappear by early October.

270. (1008) **Bank Myna**

A. ginginianus (Latham)

In the early eighties, a shanty town sprang up at Zuarinagar (Marmagoa) and with it a population of bank mynas, probably spawned by escaped cage-birds. The population peaked with over 400 birds in 1985-86; by the end of 1996 it had dwindled to less than 10.

271. (1009) **Jungle Myna**

A. fuscus (Wagler)

Very common, ubiquitous resident, in large numbers, of the coastal belt and the midland region right up to the Western Ghats foothills. Breeds from April to June.

272. (1015) **Hill Myna**

Gracula religiosa (Linn.)

Scarce, very local resident in small numbers. One group of less than 15 individuals frequents the dense evergreen forest around a tiny hamlet in the BMWS, at ca 160 m; another clan of over 20 birds roams the riverine forests of the Cotigao WS.

273. (1032) **Indian Tree Pie**

Dendrocitta vagabunda (Latham)

Roving groups of this common, considerably numerous resident are encountered from coastal villages to the base of the Western Ghats.

274. (1049) **House Crow**

Corvus splendens Vieillot

Very common, ubiquitous resident in very large numbers from offshore islets to hill tribe hamlets in the jungles at the foot of the Ghats. Breeds throughout the year, except in the monsoon.

275. (1054) **Jungle Crow**

C. macrorhynchos Wagler

An uncommon, moderately numerous resident, liable to turn up anywhere from just behind the beaches to the tiniest clearing in the dense evergreen forests on the ridge of the Sahyadris.

276. (1065) **Pied Flycatcher-Shrike**

Hemipus picatus (Sykes)

Not uncommon, moderately numerous resident of remnant semi-evergreen woods at the

scarp of plateaus and of the lower reaches of the Western Ghats (up to *ca* 180 m). Breeding in March-April.

277. (1068) **Large Wood Shrike**
Tephrodornis virgatus (Temminck)

An uncommon resident in considerable numbers (less during monsoon). Found on the outlying hills and lower slopes (up to *ca* 250 m) of the Ghats.

278. (1070) **Common Wood Shrike**
T. pondicerianus (Gmelin)

In its rather restricted woodland habitat, a not uncommon bird; resident, in considerable numbers, from coastal villages to the base of the Sahyadris.

279. (1072) **Large Cuckoo-Shrike**
Coracina novaehollandiae (Gmelin)

This rather uncommon resident is thinly spread over all three zones, from coastal villages to the lower slopes of the Ghats.

280. (1078) **Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike**
C. melanoptera (Ruppell)

This not uncommon, moderately numerous resident is mainly found in valleys on the scarp of plateaus in the midland region, rarely on the slopes of the Western Ghats.

281. (1081) **Scarlet Minivet**
Pericrocotus flammeus (Forster)

Common, considerably numerous resident of the Western Ghats, from outlying hillocks and foothills to the crest.

282. (1089) **Rosy Minivet**
P. roseus (Vieillot)

Stray. A specimen was collected by Grubh and Ali (1975) in Canacona taluka, S. Goa, in November-December 1972.

283. (1093) **Small Minivet**
P. cinnamomeus (Linn.)

A not uncommon, considerably numerous resident of woodlands in all three zones; rather scarce on the upper slopes of the Ghats. Breeding in October and December.

284. (1098) **Common Iora**
Aegithina tiphia (Linn.)

Generally common resident in consider-

able numbers. Distributed throughout the territory; uncommon in the forests of the Sahyadris.

285. (1103) **Goldfronted Chloropsis**
Chloropsis aurifrons (Temminck)

Fairly common, considerably numerous resident of all zones, from wooded coastal villages to the upper slopes of the Ghats. Breeding in January-February.

286. (1108) **Gold-mantled Chloropsis**
C. cochinchinensis (Gmelin)

A fairly common resident, in considerable numbers, of well-wooded localities, ranging from mango groves in seaside villages to evergreen forest on the scarp of the Ghats. Breeding in July and September.

287. (1109) **Fairy bluebird**
Irena puella (Latham)

Common, considerably numerous resident of the Western Ghats foothills to crest. Also found on some hillocks on the eastern rim of the midland region (e.g. Mayem lake) and hardly 50 m from the sea, at Cabo de Rama (Canacona), where a spur of the Sahyadris juts into the Arabian Sea. At the height of the monsoon, the fairy bluebird is often the dominant bird species of the Ghat forests.

288. (1114) **Grey-headed Bulbul**
Pycnonotus priocephalus (Jerdon)

A common resident, in considerable numbers, of the scarps of coastal headlands and plateaus of the midlands, and of the entire Ghats up to the crest.

289. (1116) **Black-headed Yellow Bulbul**
P. melanicterus (Gmelin)

The ruby-throated race *P. m. gularis* (Gould) is a common, considerably numerous resident, found in the Western Ghats from outlying hills and the base to *ca* 550 m; not yet recorded from the crest. Grubh and Ali (1975) collected 4 specimens of this bird in the BMWS in 1972 which, according to them, confirmed the occurrence of this bulbul in Goa (doubted in the Handbook Vol. 6: 73). Meanwhile, the Goa Government went a step further and promoted

this beautiful and unobtrusive bulbul to the questionable status of 'State Bird' of Goa.

290. (1120) **Red-whiskered Bulbul**
P. jocosus (Linn.)

Very common, resident in large to very large numbers. Ubiquitous in all zones. Breeding season in the Ghats May-June, in the midland region July-October.

291. (1128) **Red-vented Bulbul**
P. cafer (Linn.)

Common resident in large numbers, found throughout the plateau region up into the foothills of the Ghats. Breeding in May.

292. (1138) **White-browed Bulbul**
P. luteolus (Lesson)

A fairly common, considerably numerous resident of the midland region, from sea-facing plateaus to the base of the Ghats. This bulbul, essentially a bird of scrub and cashew-covered plateaus and their scarps, is occasionally also found in mangroves lining coastal creeks.

293. (1144) **Yellow-browed Bulbul**
Hypsipetes indicus (Jerdon)

Very common, ubiquitous resident, in large numbers, of the entire Goan Western Ghats, foothills to crest. By far the most common bird there, in all forest types.

294. (1148) **Black Bulbul**
H. madagascariensis (P.L.S. Muller)

A common, numerous dry season visitor on the ridge of the Ghats. Roving groups descend frequently to the lower reaches. This monsoon fugitive absents itself from mid-May to end-October, presumably by moving further inland.

295. (1154) **Spotted Babbler**
Pellorneum ruficeps Swainson

Fairly common, considerably numerous resident of well-wooded localities in all zones, from gardens in seaside villages to the ridge of the Ghats. Breeds in June-July.

296. (1173) **Slaty-headed Scimitar Babbler**
Pomatorhinus horsfieldii Sykes

Uncommon resident. Singles and small groups of up to 5 birds were noted, in all seasons, on the crest of the Sahyadris and, occasionally,

down to an altitude of *ca* 70 m. Davidson (1898) had 'obtained fully incubated eggs in October at Castle Rock', a few km from the Goa border.

297. (1222) **Rufous-bellied Babbler**
Dumetia hyperythra (Franklin)

A rather scarce, erratic visitor in all seasons. Roving groups of up to a dozen were seen between 1981 and 1986 on the scarps of plateaus facing the coastal strip. They resurfaced again in March 1995, when Frost (*pers. comm.*) had several sightings of small groups in the same locality.

298. (1224) **Black-headed Babbler**
Rhopocichla atriceps (Jerdon)

Common, considerably numerous resident of the Western Ghats slopes and outlying hills; rarely encountered at the base. Breeding in Dec.

299. (1231) **Yellow-eyed Babbler**
Chrysomma sinense (Gmelin)

A minuscule, but apparently steady, resident population of probably less than 10 birds exists on a coastal lateritic plateau at Tirakol (Pernem), Goa's northernmost village.

300. (1259) **Rufous Babbler**
Turdoides subrufus (Jerdon)

An uncommon resident, in small numbers, of the upper slopes and the ridge of the Ghats, occasionally descending to *ca* 150 m.

301. (1265) **Jungle Babbler**
T. striatus (Dumont)

A common resident, in large numbers, of the coastal and midland regions up to the foothills of the Sahyadris.

302. (1287) **Rufous-vented Laughing Thrush**
Garrulax delesserti (Jerdon)

An uncommon resident (?) in moderate numbers, on the crest of the Western Ghats. I have seen flocks at and around the top of the Dudhsagar waterfalls (in the BMWS) in January, February, April and October Davidson (1898) 'found it only ... along the Goa frontier, from Castle Rock to Anshi, where it goes about in large flocks'.

303. (1309) **White-breasted Laughing Thrush**
G. jerdoni Blyth

Recorded at the Dudhsagar waterfalls by

Rane (1982) in June. He also noted 'large flocks of 30 to 40 at Castle Rock', just across the border.

304. (1390) **Quaker Babbler**
Alcippe poiocephala (Jerdon)

Common resident in large numbers. Roving flocks may turn up at any well-wooded locality, from seaside villages to the ridge of the Ghats. Breeding in May.

305. (1407) **Brown Flycatcher**
Muscicapa latirostris Raffles

A not uncommon, moderately numerous winter visitor, from mid-October to end-April. Found in all zones, from rocky offshore islets (during autumn migration) to mango groves in coastal villages and dense forest on the crest of the Ghats. A few records from June indicate the possibility of this flycatcher being also a resident in the Western Ghats section.

306. (1408) **Brown-breasted Flycatcher**
M. muttui (Layard)

Scarce, irregular winter visitor in very small numbers. Recorded in the Sahyadris, from the foothills to the crest, between Dec. and Feb.

307. (1409) **Rufous-tailed Flycatcher**
M. ruficaudata Swainson

Rare winter visitor, in very small numbers, to remnant semi-evergreen forest on plateau scarps facing the coastal strip, and to the base and ridge of the Ghats, between October-January.

308. (1411) **Red-breasted Flycatcher**
M. parva Bechstein

A fairly common and considerably numerous winter visitor to all zones. Extremely punctual, regular arrival in mid-October; it leaves by the first week of April at the latest.

309. (1421) **White-browed Blue Flycatcher**
M. superciliaris Jerdon

Grubh and Ali (1975) collected a specimen in BMWS, in November-December 1972. There are no other records.

310. (1435) **White-bellied Blue Flycatcher**
M. pallipes Jerdon

Uncommon resident in small numbers, occurs exclusively in the Western Ghats, from

the foothills to the crest. Breeds between April-August.

311. (1440) **Blue-throated Flycatcher**
M. rubiculoides (Vigors)

A specimen was collected by Grubh and Ali (1975) in the Valpoi (Sattari) area, in November-December 1972. Frost (*pers. comm.*) observed a pair in a patch of remnant semi-evergreen forest bordering the coastal strip, at Arpora (Bardez), in early January 1997.

312. (1442) **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**
M. tickelliae (Blyth)

Common resident in large numbers, from gardens and groves in coastal villages to moist deciduous forests at the base of the Sahyadris; rare on the higher slopes. Breeding in September.

313. (1445) **Verditer Flycatcher**
M. thalassina Swainson

Rather scarce, but regular winter visitor in small numbers. Ranges from patches of remnant semi-evergreen woods in coastal villages to the heavy forests on the ridge of the Ghats. Appears at the beginning of November and has left by February-end.

314. (1449) **Grey-headed Flycatcher**
Culicicapa ceylonensis (Swainson)

Stray. In January 1986, I observed one bird at a stream in dense evergreen forest, at the base of the Dudhsagar waterfalls, in the BMWS. Willoughby (1996) noted a single in the Bondla WS, in November 1995.

315. (1455) **White-browed Fantail Flycatcher**
Rhipidura albicollis (Vieillot)

The subspecies *R. a. albogularis* (Lesson) is a common, considerably numerous resident of most wooded localities in all three zones, from seaside gardens and mangrove forest in the river basins to the slope of the Sahyadris, where it is rare.

316. (1461) **Paradise Flycatcher**
Terpsiphone paradisi (Linn.)

Fairly common winter visitor in considerable numbers. Found from seaside gardens to the top of the Western Ghats, between mid-October and mid-April.

317. (1465) **Black-naped Flycatcher***Hypothymis azurea* (Boddaert)

A common, considerably numerous resident of the Western Ghats, and a common visitor, in all seasons, to semi-evergreen woods in the coastal and midland regions. Breeding in May-June.

318. (1498) **Streaked Fantail Warbler***Cisticola juncidis* (Rafinesque)

A seasonally and locally common resident in considerable numbers, occurring mainly in the coastal belt and river basins, occasionally at the foot of the Ghats. Closely linked to the two paddy-growing seasons (rain-fed: June to October, irrigated: December to March); uncommon during the remaining months. Breeding in June.

319. (1503) **Ashy-grey Wren Warbler***Prinia hodgsonii* Blyth

A fairly common resident in large numbers, from seaside villages to the foothills of the Western Ghats. Breeding in September.

320. (1511) **Plain Wren Warbler***P. subflava* (Gmelin)

Not uncommon, patchily distributed resident in moderate numbers. Occurs in a wide range of habitats, from seaside creeks to cultivation at the base of the Sahyadris. Breeding in November.

321. (1517) **Ashy Wren Warbler***P. socialis* Sykes

A capriciously distributed resident; common and numerous in its preferred habitat of mangroves and sea-holly. Smaller numbers are found in the most diverse places, from beach creepers just above the high water line to the outskirts of villages at the foot of the Ghats.

322. (1538) **Tailor Bird***Orthotomus sutorius* (Pennant)

Very common, numerous, ubiquitous resident from coast to Ghats (on the base only). Breeds during the SW monsoon.

323. (1549) **Thick-billed Warbler***Acrocephalus aedon* (Pallas)

Rather scarce winter visitor, in small numbers, to the coastal belt, from mid-November to mid-April.

324. (1550) **Indian Great Reed Warbler***A. stentorius* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg)

A not uncommon, moderately numerous winter visitor to the coast, where it favours creeks and salt pans, and rarely to freshwater bodies of the midlands. Arrives in mid-November and has left by mid-March.

325. (1556) **Blyth's Reed Warbler***A. dumetorum* Blyth

A very common winter visitor in very large numbers. Occurs from seaside gardens to the densest wet evergreen forests on the slopes of the Sahyadris, from end-October to mid-April.

326. (1557) **Paddyfield Warbler***A. agricola* (Jerdon)

Numerous and, in the appropriate habitat, common winter visitor between mid-October and mid-April. Found in the coastal belt and river basins.

327. (1562) **Booted Warbler***Hippolais caligata* (Lichtenstein)

Straggler. There are 5 records, between late Oct. and end Dec., from the base of the Ghats and semi-evergreen woodlands of the coastal belt.

328. (1567) **Lesser White-throat***Sylvia curruca* (Linn.)

Stray. Rane (1982) noted this bird at the Bondla WS, in April 1982. I have seen it once, in late Oct. 1985, in a remnant pocket of semi-evergreen forest at the foot of a plateau near the sea.

329. (1574) **Chiffchaff***Phylloscopus collybita* (Vieillot)

Straggler. Up to a dozen birds were recorded on 5 dates (October to March) in the Western Ghats and remnant forest patches on plateau-scarps facing the coastal strip.

330. (1578) **Tytler's Leaf Warbler***P. tyleri* Brooks

Grubh and Ali (1975) collected a specimen in the Cotigao WS, in Nov.-Dec. 1972, the identification of which was disputed by Price (1979). I believe I have seen very small numbers of this confusing leaf warbler twice in the winter of 1985-86, in the Ghats and the coastal belt.

331. (1581) **Olivaceous Leaf Warbler**
P. griseolus Blyth

A specimen was collected by Grubh and Ali (1975) in the BMWS, in November-December 1972. I am quite sure of having had 5 sightings in the same area, between November and February.

332. (1601) **Large-billed Leaf Warbler**
P. magnirostris Blyth

Scarce winter visitor, in moderate numbers, to the Western Ghats and their outlying hills. Roving groups of up to a dozen birds are seen irregularly from early November to late March.

333. (1605) **Greenish Leaf Warbler**
P. trochiloides (Sundevall)

Very common winter visitor, found in very large numbers in all wooded localities, from immediately behind the seashore to the top of the Sahyadris. Between mid-September and mid-April, it is probably Goa's most common bird.

334. (1606) **Large Crowned Leaf Warbler**
P. occipitalis (Blyth)

Not uncommon, moderately numerous winter visitor to the Western Ghats, especially the higher slopes and the crest, between October and mid-March. During passage, in November, it is considerably numerous, found even in remnant forest-patches on plateau-scarps bordering the coastal strip.

335. (1644) **Bluethroat**
Erithacus svecicus (Linn.)

Uncommon, slightly irregular winter visitor in small numbers. Occurs in the coastal belt and river basins from early November to mid-February.

336. (1650) **Blue Chat**
E. brunneus (Hodgson)

Writing about the adjoining N. Kanara dist., Karnataka, Davidson (1898) found this bird 'a rare straggler to the line of the Ghats'. In November-December 1994, P.J. Willoughby (1996), a visiting British birder, observed a male in the Bondla WS, while I have two records of males from the top of the Dudhsagar waterfalls in the BMWS, in April and December.

337. (1661) **Magpie Robin**
Copsychus saularis (Linn.)

A common and plentiful resident from the coast to the Ghats. Breeding in May-June.

338. (1665) **Shama** *C. malabaricus* (Scopoli)

A not uncommon, moderately numerous resident of the lower reaches (up to ca 150 m) and the crest of the Ghats. An attempt by this species to expand into valleys and gullies on the scarp of plateaus bordering the coastal belt, during 1984 to 1986, was apparently abandoned in the following years.

339. (1671) **Black Redstart**
Phoenicurus ochruros (Gmelin)

Scarce and irregular winter visitor, in very small numbers, to the coastal region. Grubh and Ali (1975) noted one at the base of the Ghats.

340. (1697) **Stone Chat**
Saxicola torquata (Linn.)

Not uncommon winter visitor. Being partial to saline and brackish fallow lands, this bird is found in the coastal belt, river basins and, occasionally, on barren plateaus not more than 20 km from the sea. Present in very moderate numbers (except in 'invasion years' like 1996 and during passage, when numbers rise considerably) from late September to mid-March.

341. (1700) **Pied Bush Chat** *S. caprata* (Linn.)

A common, considerably numerous, monsoon fugitive and local migrant. Found in the coastal belt and margins of plateaus bordering cultivation. Departs in the first week of June, just a few days ahead of the onset of the monsoon, and returns in mid-September.

342. (1706) **Isabelline Chat**
Oenanthe isabellina (Temminck)

Vagrant. There are four sightings of up to 5 birds on a barren lateritic plateau near the coast, at Sancoale (Marmagoa), in November-December of three consecutive years in the mid-eighties.

343. (1720) **Indian Robin**
Saxicoloides fulicata (Linn.)

Common resident, in considerable numbers, of the midland plateaus and valleys on their scarps.

344. (1723) **Blue-headed Rock Thrush**
Monticola cinclorhynchus (Vigors)

Rather uncommon winter visitor in small numbers. Occurs at all elevations in the Western Ghats and their outlying hills, occasionally also in gullies on the scarp of midland plateaus. Arrives before 10th November, and departs in early April.

345. (1726) **Blue Rock Thrush**
M. solitarius (Linn.)

A not uncommon winter visitor in moderate numbers, found on offshore islets, steep rocky seashore, headlands and cliffs on the scarp of the Sahyadris, from early October to early April. Davidson (1898) saw one on 4th May (!) 1893, at Marmagoa harbour.

346. (1728) **Malabar Whistling Thrush**
M. horsfieldii (Vigors)

The 'idle schoolboy' is a common, considerably numerous resident of the Western Ghats and, to a slightly lesser degree, their foothills. During the rains, the breeding season, it is the most common bird at altitudes of 100 to 500 m. In the non-breeding season, it is occasionally found in well-wooded valleys of the plateau zone. For several years, a pair used to overwinter at the confluence of a perennial stream and the backwaters behind Velsao (Marmagoa) beach, hardly 150 m from the sea.

347. (1733) **Orange-headed Ground Thrush**
Zoothera citrina (Latham)

The white-throated subspecies *Z. c. cyanotus* (Jardine and Selby) is a common and considerably numerous year-round resident and a summer visitor in large numbers. Occurs in the plateau zone and the Western Ghats at all elevations. The resident population is augmented in end-March by large numbers of migrants that depart again by mid-September. Breeding from June to August.

348. (1752) **Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Linn.

Status unclear, probably resident (though records from July to September are lacking) of the midland plateau region and the lower reaches and crest of the Western Ghats. Locally common,

in moderate numbers. The irregularity of local occurrences and the confusing array of subspecies and intergrades, as far as they are identifiable in the field, suggest that many of them pass through Goa only on migration.

349. (1794) **Grey Tit** *Parus major* Linn.

Stray. Rane (1982) noted it at the Bondla WS, in April-June 1982. I sighted a group of three in my garden, at Anjuna (Bardez), in May 1988.

350. (1809) **Yellow-cheeked Tit**
P. xanthogenys Vigors

A not uncommon, moderately numerous resident of the midland region. Roving bands of up to 10 birds are liable to turn up in any wooded locality, except in wet evergreen forest.

351. (1830) **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**
Sitta castanea Lesson

Stray. Noted by Rane (1982) between April and June 1982, in the BMWS. This species is known to occur in the almost adjacent Dandeli WS of N. Kanara, Karnataka.

352. (1838) **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**
S. frontalis Swainson

Fairly common, considerably numerous resident of the lower slopes of the Sahyadris and the outlying clusters of hills; more common during the monsoon.

353. (1852) **Indian Tree Pipit**
Anthus hodgsoni Richmond

Grubh and Ali (1975) collected a specimen in the BMWS, in November-December 1972. I have identified this bird with certainty only once, in January 1985, in the same sanctuary.

354. (1854) **Tree Pipit** *A. trivialis* (Linn.)

A not uncommon winter visitor, in considerable to large numbers, to coastal lowlands and grasslands on the base and ridge of the Ghats. Arrival in early November, departure before March 10.

355. (1858) **Paddyfield Pipit**
A. novaeseelandiae Gmelin

Uncommon resident and common winter visitor. The small resident population, possibly only overwintering non-breeding birds, is

found in the coastal region, where it seems to have a penchant for the belt of beach creepers immediately behind the high tide line. Large numbers of winter visitors arrive in two distinct thrusts (usually in early September and again at the beginning of October) and occupy all three zones up to the base of the Ghats. The more diffuse outward movement lasts through April into May.

356. (1861) **Tawny Pipit**

A. campestris (Linn.)

Rare winter visitor in very small numbers. The 5 records, of up to 11 birds in a group, from coastal headlands date from Nov. and Feb.

357. (1864) **Red-throated Pipit**

A. cervinus (Pallas)

Vagrant. Frost and Manville (*pers. comm.*) observed a single male in full spring pre-breeding plumage, on fallow pastures at Candolim (Bardez), a coastal village of North Goa, in early March 1997.

358. (1874) **Forest Wagtail**

Motacilla indica Gmelin

This uncommon, moderately numerous winter visitor occurs mainly in the moist deciduous forests at the base and in sholas on the crest of the Sahyadris, avoiding the wet evergreen forest of the scarp. It arrives in mid-October (when one was sighted in a patch of remnant semi-evergreen woods hardly 2 km from the seashore) and leaves by end-March.

359. (1876) **Yellow Wagtail** *M. flava* Linn.

Common winter visitor in considerable to large numbers. Found from beaches to the foot of the Western Ghats, from mid-Nov. to late March.

360. (1883) **Yellow-headed Wagtail**

M. citreola Pallas

Rather scarce, but regular winter visitor to the coastal belt, rarely to the foot of the Ghats. Small to moderate numbers are present from late Nov. onwards; flocks of >500 birds seen in some years, before departure in end-March.

361. (1884) **Grey Wagtail**

M. cinerea Tunstall

Common, moderately numerous winter visitor to all zones, from late Sept. to mid-April

362. (1885) **White Wagtail** *M. alba* Linn.

Scarce but regular winter visitor, in moderate numbers, to all three zones from mid-October to mid-Mar. Has a penchant for irrigated rice-paddies at the foot of the Ghats.

363. (1891) **Large Pied Wagtail**

M. maderaspatensis Gmelin

Common, considerably numerous resident from just behind the seashore to the base of the Sahyadris.

364. (1892) **Thick-billed Flowerpecker**

Dicaeum agile (Tickell)

Uncommon, dry season visitor in moderate numbers; from the coastal belt (rare) to the slopes of the Ghats. Absent from mid-May to early Nov. Breeding in March at ca 300 m, in the Ghats.

365. (1899) **Tickell's Flowerpecker**

D. erythrorhynchos (Latham)

Rather uncommon, moderately numerous resident, from the coastal belt to the foot of the Western Ghats. Numbers drop sharply during monsoon.

366. (1902) **Plain-coloured Flowerpecker**

D. concolor Jerdon

Common, very numerous resident of the midland and Ghats; rarely advances into the coastal belt. Breeding in May and October.

367. (1907) **Purple-rumped Sunbird**

N. zeylonica (Linn.)

Very common, ubiquitous resident in very large, wildly fluctuating numbers. Found from the immediate hinterland of the seashore to the base of the Sahyadris. Breeding from Jul. to Oct.

368. (1909) **Small Sunbird**

N. minima (Sykes)

Common, very numerous resident from gardens in seaside villages to the ridge of the Ghats. For most of the year, this is the most common and numerous bird in the forests of the Western Ghats. Numbers drop sharply in the monsoon. Breeding was noted in Feb.-March.

369. (1911) **Loten's Sunbird**

N. lotenia (Linn.)

Rather uncommon resident, in moderate to considerable numbers. Occurs in the midland

region and on the lower reaches of the Ghats. Breeding in February-March.

370. (1917) **Purple Sunbird**
N. asiatica (Latham)

A common, considerably numerous resident of the plateaus and Western Ghats; rarely found in the coastal lowlands. Breeding in Nov.

371. (1927) **Yellow-backed Sunbird**
Aethopyga siparaja (Raffles)

Not uncommon resident, in moderate to considerable numbers, fluctuating with the seasons. Occurs exclusively in gardens and orchards of the coastal region and in the remnant semi-evergreen woods on the scarp of plateaus facing the coastal strip. Davidson (1898) found it 'very rare in Kanara' and thought himself lucky to have seen 'a specimen from the train below Castle Rock' (on the ridge of the Ghats, at the Goa border). Incidentally, this and a recent sighting at Surla (Sattari), also on the ridge, are the only records outside the coastal strip.

372. (1931) **Little Spiderhunter**
Arachnothera longirostris (Latham)

An uncommon, moderately numerous resident of the Western Ghats, encountered mostly in dense evergreen and semi-evergreen forest at 100-200 m.

373. (1933) **White-eye**
Zosterops palpebrosa (Temminck)

Apparently common enough in adjacent N. Kanara above the Ghats, strays rarely into Goa. I have only a handful of records from the border areas along the ridge of the Ghats. Rane (1982), however, sighted it at the Bondla WS, a cluster of high foothills separated by several km from the main Sahyadris.

374. (1938) **House Sparrow**
Passer domesticus (Linn.)

Common resident, in large numbers, of towns and villages. This species began to colonise coastal villages only around 1985. Breeds practically throughout the year.

375. (1949) **Yellow-throated Sparrow**
Petronia xanthocollis (Burton)

Common, dry season, breeding visitor, in

large numbers, to all zones up to the foothills of the Western Ghats where it is numerous in moist deciduous forests (with night roosts of over 1000 birds). Breeding December to May. Absent between late May and mid-October.

376. (1957) **Baya Ploceus philippinus** (Linn.)

Resident from coastal lowlands to the foot of the Sahyadris. Uncommon in the dry season from mid-November to late March when Bayas breed around irrigated winter paddy; common, very numerous during the monsoon, when they nest near the much more extensive rain-fed kharif crop.

377. (1968) **White-backed Munia**
Lonchura striata (Linn.)

Common, resident in large numbers. Spread almost evenly from the coastal strip to the lower slopes of the Ghats. Breeding Feb. to Sep.

378. (1973) **Rufous-bellied Munia**
L. kelaarti (Jerdon)

Stray. Up to 5 birds of the subspecies *L. k. jerdoni* (Hume) were sighted on three occasions on the higher scarps of the Western Ghats where the railway line leads up to Castle Rock (N. Kanara, Karnataka).

379. (1974) **Spotted Munia**
L. punctulata (Linn.)

Scarce visitor, in flocks of up to 20 birds, to coastal lowlands, from February to June.

380. (1978) **Black-headed Munia**
L. malacca (Linn.)

Scarce, irregular visitor, in very small numbers, to coastal lowlands and foothills of the Ghats (once). Recorded between late August and end-October.

381. (2013) **Common Rosefinch**
Carpodacus erythrinus (Pallas)

Uncommon, irregular, winter visitor in moderate numbers. Found mainly in the foothills of the Western Ghats, to a lesser degree in the plateau zone, from early December to early April.

382. (2043) **Black-headed Bunting**
Emberiza melanocephala Scopoli

Sporadic winter visitor, in singles and pairs, to grasslands at the foot of the Ghats, scrubby plateaus and coastal headlands.

APPENDIX

Unconfirmed records of birds that are difficult to identify in the field and of records within 5 km beyond Goa's borders:

1. (11) Audubon's Shearwater *Procellaria lherminieri* (Lesson)

I had a sighting of one bird off the coast at Anjuna (Bardez), in mid-June 1984, after severe cyclonic squalls.

2. (31) Lesser Frigate Bird *Fregata minor* (Gmelin)

In mid-September 1990, I saw a female over Anjuna Beach (Bardez).

3. (332) Banded Crake *Rallina eurizonoides* (Lafresnaye)

Davidson (1898) '...noticed this bird in the neighbourhood of Karwar ... I obtained a single specimen however at Sadasheogarh, which took refuge in the bungalow there on 6th June, 1894, during a severe thunderstorm.'

4. (410) Jack Snipe *Gallinago minima* (Brunnich)

I flushed a single from an irrigation ditch near the base of Dudhsagar waterfalls in BMWS, in Mar. 1988.

5. (581) Small Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* Latham

In November 1988, I saw a single bird at Kalay (Sanguem), at the base of an outlying hillock of the Western Ghats.

6. (598) Sirkeer Cuckoo *Taccocua leschenaultii* Lesson

'This is a very rare bird in Kanara. Aitken obtained a specimen north of Karwar...' (Davidson 1898).

7. (627) Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (Linn.)

'A pair are generally to be found at the side of the hill at Sadasheogarh, north of Karwar.' (Davidson 1898).

8. (1521) Jungle Wren Warbler *Prinia sylvatica* Jerdon

I observed a single bird in a fragment of semi-evergreen forest on a plateau scarp facing the coastal strip, at Arpora (Bardez), in December 1995.

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